

**From:** Bob Peterson  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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I'm writing this to you because I'm gravely concerned over the settlement between our DOJ and Microsoft. There is no teeth to the settlement. It places too much trust in a company that is not trustworthy and has proven as such over its entire history. All that it will do is enhance Microsoft's grip on the desktop market and allow it to expand and also destroy other areas. Already the signs are everywhere that with every step in Microsoft's control and destruction of our computing industry, innovation has crawled to a near stop. When I say innovation, I am referring to the true meaning of the word and not another mad-twist meaning from Microsoft when they use "innovate" as part of their questionable ad campaign.

I am a user of Linux. Lately, I've noticed that Microsoft has increasingly tried to squeeze out non-windows platforms by their usual dirty tactics. It used to be that I could access my hotmail account. Now I'm forced to have a Passport account. Passport is a Microsoft product and Microsoft refuses to support a Linux version of Passport. Remember the debacle with MSN.com not allowing any non Internet Explorer browsers to visit their site? While on the subject of Internet Explorer; who on earth wants to view their file directory as a webpage (like in the Windows operating system)? This is the result of you allowing Microsoft to tie-in their browser and falsely claim that it's an integral part of Windows. It is not necessary and anyone with a slight understanding of computers should know that... except for some reason the DOJ.

As part of the settlement you Microsoft must be forced to sell a version of Windows without all the predatory tie-ins. And they must be forced to port all their applications to other operating systems. Those ported applications must be of equal quality and functionality. Typically, when Microsoft ports their software to another platform (Mac), that software is usually a crippled version of the windows original. They can claim that Windows is superior and thus providing more features but any software engineer would say otherwise. Then Microsoft must provide all the necessary specifications for 3rd party software vendors so as not to give Microsoft another area of unfair advantage.

Another point to bring up is the myth that Microsoft is good for our economy. Is it? I don't think so. How can Microsoft justify charging hundreds of dollars for an operating system that is no better than its previous version? The cost of manufacturing is nearly zero. But yet,

everyone PC owner including businesses are strong-armed into buying this poor excuse for an upgrade. Those businesses are then forced to pass on that cost to the consumer. The cost amounts to a heavy burden on our national economy. Then Microsoft uses this money not to truly innovate and create more secure software, but to use their legal monetary might to crush the competition. Thus putting more people out of jobs. This is bad for our economy.

So please do not let Microsoft escape unscathed with yet another blatant violation of the law. Just look around you. The software landscape is nearly bare in the Windows market as far as "genetic" diversity. Without strong restrictions on their business tactics, we will be left with a very weakened engineering base as the world will continue to truly innovate. Having our schools teach Microsoft products instead of real software engineering will amount to suicide of the knowledge base. Then we'll have to answer to our children and grandchildren when they ask why we have to import quality software from Asia and Europe. And, why we had such a lead in that field and chose to allow one company (Microsoft) to sabotage everything we've worked for. Do the right thing now before it's too late and we lose everything.

Sincerely,

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